

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 L-01 DHA-02 OMB-01 (ISO) W

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P R 261015Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1685

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5645

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

1. PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL IN CONVERSATION JULY 26 WITH ME REVIEWED CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION. IN GENERAL HE VIEWS CURRENT SITUATION AS MORE STABLE AND QUIET THAN IT HAD BEEN FOR A LONG TIME, BUT HE WAS PERTURBED BY VETO JULY 25 OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TESTIMONY BILL. (SEE SEPTTEL).

2. JUST PREVIOUS TO MY MEETING WITH HIM, PRIMIN HAD MET WITH DRP LEADERSHIP AND PRESIDENT PARK IN EFFORT TO RETRIEVE DAMAGE DONE BY VETO. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY WITH VETO. (HIS AIDE HAN TOLD ME THE PRIMIN HAD TRIED, DURING CABINET MEETING, TO TURN OFF LAWYERS' EFFORTS TO VETO BILL, BUT HAD BEEN OVER- RULED BY PRESIDENT WHEN HE WAS RECOVERING FROM RECENT MINOR SURGERY.) FORMULA WORKED OUT IS IN EFFECT TO WITHDRAW VETO AND ARRANGE FOR AMENDMENT OF SPECIFIC CLAUSE CONSIDERED UNCONSTITUTIONAL AT NEXT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN SEPTEMBER. ON THIS
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BASIS, DRP LEADERSHIP WILL URGE KIM YONG SAM TO

TAKE HIS SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP, DEPARTING JULY 27.
PRIMIN WAS CONFIDENT THAT NDP WILL ACCEPT THIS FORMULA
AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO NDP STRONG DISSATISFACTION
WITH VETO.

3. PRIMIN RECOGNIZED THAT DESPITE CURRENT STABILITY
IN DOMESTIC SCENE, THERE IS RESTIVENESS UNDER SURFACE,
PARTICULARLY AMONG STUDENTS. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE AMNESTY
OF ABOUT 1,000 OR MORE PRISONERS WHO HAD SERVED TWO-
THIRDS OF THEIR SENTENCE ON AUGUST 3, BUT EXPECTED NO
OTHER MAJOR MOVES ON POLITICAL SCENE. IN THIS CONNECTION,
HE MENTIONED THAT BOTH KIM CHI HA AND KIM KWAN SUK
CASES WOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY, PARTIALLY IN
RECOGNITION STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN BOTH
CASES.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL05645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0500
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750718/aaaaaptj.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, KS, (KIM CHONG PIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006